

REMARKS

Preliminary Matters:

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the reference cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 15, 2009. Applicant submits another Information Disclosure Statement concurrently herewith for consideration by the Examiner.

Disposition of Claims:

Claims 1-40 and 50-53 are all the claims pending in the application. Of these claims, claims 15-34, 37-40 and 50-53 are withdrawn from consideration; claims 1-3, 9-14, 35 and 37 are rejected; and claims 4-8 are objected to.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103:

Claims 1, 3, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishii (Japanese Patent No. 05020563). Further claims 1-3, 9, 13, 14, 35 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishii in view of Oppelt (U.S. Patent Publication No. 20020153499) and Opitz (U.S. Patent Publication No. 20020135490). Further, claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishii in view of Oppelt and Opitz as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Miller (U.S. Patent No. 3,688,298). Still further, claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishii in view of Oppelt and Opitz as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Sakagami (Japanese Patent No. 362153780). Finally, claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishii in view of Oppelt, Opitz and Sakagami as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of

Garbundy (U.S. Patent No. 3,788,742). For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Allowability of Claims 4- 8

It is noted with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 4-8 contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, to place the application in condition for allowance and without prejudice, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitation of claim 5 which has been canceled; rewritten claims 4, 6 and 7 to be in independent form; and canceled the withdrawn claims.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Application No.: 10/556,807

Attorney Docket No.: Q91511

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/Brian W. Hannon/

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Brian W. Hannon
Registration No. 32,778

Date: July 7, 2010